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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

JULY 22, 2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for July 22 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. Evrensel / Friction between the villagers and Gendarme still continues in Bozova, Urfa. Villagers claim that gendarme collected about 10 boys from the village school and asked where the villagers keep their guns. When boys didn't answer they beat the boys. Some boys claimed that their noses were broken after the incident. According to the newspaper the incident started on June 15 during a wedding ceremony. Gendarme heard the villagers firing their guns "for fun" during the ceremony. They came to the village and wanted the villagers to hand their guns in. Most of the guns were unauthorized. Villagers objected and extra gendarme forces came for support. About 30 villagers were taken to the nearest gendarme station. Five of the villagers were arrested for keeping unauthorized guns and five of them were arrested for fighting with the gendarme. On July 10 gendarme had come to the village to search for more guns. Ahmet Faruk Onsal from AKP, and Huseyin Bayindir from CHP, Human Rights Commission Members of the Parliament, are leading the investigation.

3. Gunaydin, Bolge, Milliyet / Thirty students from different countries are having a summer camp at Cukurova University. International University Students Organization arranges this program. Students take Turkish courses, see the historical places in the region and have fun. Camp ends on July 28.

4. Gunaydin / Forty-five students from different towns of Turkey are having a summer camp in Adiyaman. Students say they weren't expecting such a wonderful historical beauty in Adiyaman and they will come for visits again.

5. Hurriyet, Bolge, / In Adana, Yusuf Gullerden (50) injured his 7 year old adopted disabled girl with a knife. Mother Rabia Gullerden complained about her husband and asked for support from the government officials.

HART